

## **Remarks**

### **Status of Claims**

Claims 34-51 are pending in the application. Claims 34, 39-42, 45, 46 and 48 stand rejected.

### **Specification**

In the specification, inconsistencies in terminology have been corrected to further clarify the present invention. No new matter has been added.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 49-51.

### **Drawing Objections**

The Examiner has objected to drawings Figs. 7-16 under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The Examiner contends that the features of claim 42 are not shown in Figs. 7-16 and must be shown or cancelled. Claim 42 has been amended to further clarify the present invention. As amended, claim 42 recites the plug connection of claim 34, wherein the second plug is provided with a sealing projection configured for engagement with a passageway sealing member. The Examiner's attention is directed to review page 17, lines 4-10 of the substitute Specification, in light of Figure 7 and 8, which clearly show a sealing project 198, which is configured to form an air tight joint with a peripheral passageway sealing member that is first introduced in lines 7-14

of page 16 of the substitute Specification. Since the claimed features are clearly shown, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

### **Claim Objections**

The Examiner has objected to claim 40, asserting that it is unclear how the outer periphery of the opening is provided with the sealing member. Claim 40 has been amended to further clarify the invention, reciting a pin-like projection that extends through an opening in the sliding device into engagement with the guide rail, the opening being provided with a passageway sealing member. The claim is clear because the peripheral sealing member is properly located by the claim language as being provided on the periphery. The Examiner's attention is directed to review page 16, lines 7-14 of the substitute Specification, in light of Figure 7 and 8, which clearly show pin-like projections 33, 34, and openings 72, 73 provided in the first plug, and furthermore the peripheral passageway sealing members 163 in order to seal the connection region. Since the claimed features are clearly shown, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

The Examiner has objected to claim 42, asserting that it is unclear how the outer periphery of the opening is provided with the sealing member. Claim 42 has been amended to further clarify the invention. As discussed above, 42 recites the plug connection of claim 34, wherein the second plug is provided with a sealing projection configured for engagement with a peripheral passageway sealing member. Again, the Examiner's attention is directed to review page 17, lines 4-10 of the substitute Specification, in light of Figure 7 and 8, which clearly show a sealing project 198, which is configured to form an air tight joint with a peripheral sealing

member that is first introduced in lines 7-14 of page 16 of the substitute Specification. Since the claimed features are clearly shown, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection is requested.

### **Claim Rejections**

#### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

The Examiner has rejected claims 34, 39-42, 45, and 48 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,183,275 issued to Okura et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Okura").

Claim 34, stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Okura. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's finding that Okura renders claim 34 anticipated, because neither Okura does not teaches each and every element of claim 34, especially as amended.

Claim 34 has been amended to further clarify the present invention, requiring, inter alia, a plug connection, comprising a first plug having a *partition seal*, a second plug configured for fitting in an opening in a partition wall, the second plug being mateable with the first plug such that the seal substantially surrounds the opening in the partition wall when the first and second plugs are mated, and a clamping device provided on the first plug that is configured for drawing the first plug into engagement with the second plug, the clamping device engaging with the second plug at a connection region, *the connection region being provided with a bearing sealing member arranged in the connection region and configured to seal the connection region between the clamping device and the second plug*. In the least, Okura does not teach nor suggest a *partition seal and a connection region being provided with a bearing sealing member arranged in the connection region and configured to seal the connection region between the clamping*

*device and the second plug.* While the Examiner points to Okura's sealing member 16, that sealing member is not configured to seal a connection region as defined by claim 34, especially configured on a bearing projection. The connection region of claim 34 is defined at a location where the clamping device engages with the second plug. Okura's sealing member 16, in contradistinction, only seals the second plug on the panel and does not seal his connection region 28, 29.

Okura therefore cannot be read to anticipate claim 34, nor those that depend therefrom, namely claims 39-42, 45, and 48. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is requested.

#### **Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

The Examiner has rejected claim 46 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 6,183,275 issued to Okura et al. Since Okura lacks a teaching or suggestion of the elements of claim 34 from which 46 depends, there can be no prima facie showing of obviousness based on that reference. Reconsideration and removal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is requested.

#### **Conclusion**

For all of the foregoing reasons and in view of the foregoing amendments, the Applicants respectfully contend that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, reconsideration and allowance of claims 34, 39-42, 45, 46, and 48-51 and issuance of a Patent for the subject invention. If the Examiner cares to discuss anything presented here to further prosecution of this application, he is invited to contact the undersigned Attorney for the Applicants. Please charge

any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,

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